

Optimism in
France Strong
As 1920 Dawns
Low Exchange Rate Still Is
Grave Factor to Keep
Much Needed Money of
America From the Nation
Outlook Is Much Better

Recent Elections Caused In-
creased Confidence and
Stabilizing of Opinion

PARIS, Dec. 27.—France will begin the new year with far greater confidence than the last. This is in spite of formidable handicaps such as the balance of trade running against her at the monthly rate of about 1,500,000,000 francs (\$300,000,000), about 50 per cent depreciation of the exchange value of the franc and the consequent difficulty of procuring raw materials and machines, urgently needed for reconstruction.

France's renewed confidence is derived directly from the result of the recent elections. These are regarded here as having definitely stabilized in general politics, ended all danger of revolutionary agitation for some time to come and brought about a better attitude by capital and labor toward the immense effort before France.

Money for Investments

Money is forthcoming for investments in anything that promises stability. While investments in short-term treasury bonds are continuing at the rate of nearly 2,000,000,000 francs a month, there is plenty of money for industrial and commercial enterprises and long-term loans. The 4,000,000,000 franc loan to provide immediate resources for indemnifying victims of the invasion of Alsace-Lorraine, authorized by the assembly in the month of October, is the official opening of the subscription. Important banks and industrial companies have lately increased their capital to an aggregate of nearly 500,000,000 francs.

Transactions on the Paris bourse

which still are confined to cash deals have exceeded on certain days records of pre-war trading which futures entered largely in the totals. The upward movement of all industries, which began before the signature of the treaty at Versailles, has been unchecked by successive liquidations. This is regarded by keen observers here as a sure sign of economic recovery.

Labor Situation Easier

Employers say the labor situation is improved and that the list strikes developed symptoms that the workers themselves were becoming weary of long continued disturbances of business, industry and transportation. They see a tendency against frivolous strikes and an indication that only real grievances will induce the wage earners to quit work hereafter.

Decentralization of capital and industry

is seen in the establishing in Normandy of textile industries to replace those in the occupied territory destroyed by the war. This movement has been greatly extended by the development of water power in the region of the Alps and the center and south of France. Industrial leaders say that new enterprises in the region of France bordering the Mediterranean will monopolize industry, and declare that this scattering will prove beneficial and result in a more equitable recasting of all parts of the country.

Powerful financial groups are at the head

of a movement to transfer important industries from the coast region to southeastern France, where power is more abundant and available. Other groups are being formed to develop manufacturing centers near the coast, so as to reduce the cost of transporting raw materials. Industrial leaders say that this activity is the part of capital, supported by the recovery of labor from what has been characterized as a "winter of business," gives a healthy impetus to the nation.

Exchange Still Weak

Instability of the exchange value of the franc is regarded as one of the weakest points in French conditions. It is pointed out that France cannot pay two cents over at present high prices for supplies the needs and that the low value of the franc means that the French government is now making a complete renovation of her financial policy, with a view to making such provisions to meet her obligations as will give greatest stability both at home and abroad.

Deals of money and financial policy

are as yet not disclosed, but it is understood that it comprises, first, a large infusion of money to take up all short-term bonds and floating debt; and second, immediate measures in all taxes to bring the revenues up to the annual budget, estimated to require from 20,000,000,000 to 25,000,000,000 francs. It is not expected that any internal financial arrangement can change the present moral influence on the value of the franc abroad, and this may be said to be the subject of the greatest anxiety in official circles.

The building trades do not show any

disposition to undertake important work while obliged to pay three times the normal prices for materials. The result is that reconstruction work is being held up, although considerable progress is reported for some sections of the invaded regions. This progress, although encouraging, is not regarded by business men as sufficient to warrant the expectation that France will be enabled at an early date to resume exportations on a scale sufficient to materially affect the exchange rates. The French still are counting on some sort of international arrangement that will increase the value of the franc.

Ask for Fair Deal

"With capital and labor both ready to do their bit," said Raoul Peret, chairman of the appropriation committee of the Chamber of Deputies, "all that remains to enable us to get firmly on our feet is for the world to give our money something like an equal show in all markets."

French observers regard it as extremely important that France shall be enabled to purchase raw material on an equitable basis. They say this is shown by the fact that before the war three-fifths of her exported goods were manufactured objects and that this proportion must be increased in the future to make up for the loss of the market for wines and spirits in America and Russia, which formerly constituted the important share of the total of French exports.

Revenue from tourists, which was a

potential source toward maintaining the equilibrium of the franc until the war has not yet given the expected help. Indications are seen of an influx of foreign visitors early in the new year, but present disposition in official circles seems to be not to wait for its development but to take measures to improve all needs independently of this source of income.

Economists and financiers who have

weighed all the elements of the situation admit that France still is in a most difficult situation, but they see indications of great improvement before the end of another year.

Pershing Gives His 'Howdy'
And a Handshake to 3,200

General's Visit to Laclede, "Where Everybody Knows Him," Will Go Down in History of Linn County, Missouri, as Its Banner Event

LACLEDE, Mo., Dec. 27.—A hand-shaking festal that will live in Linn County history was the climax of the public reception for General John J. Pershing, former commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, on his return to his birthplace.

"It is my day of days," he told them. Some one counted the number of handshakes up to 3,200, and then quit on learning that many were repeating.

"Let 'em pump as often as they like," General Pershing laughed. "I'm a muscular man and can stand it."

"Howdy," he would exclaim, as he clasped a hand in a fashion that left it tingling.

All Soldiers Halted

Soldiers were momentarily halted. "Glad to see you in your uniform," he would say. "What outfit were you with? Get over it. Wounded? Glad I got to see you."

"Lizze, Mollie, Jennie," he exclaimed. "My old pupils. Say, girls, I would just love to sit down with you this minute and go over these mental arithmetic problems we used to worry over."

"Confess, John," pressed Mrs. Lizzie Davis, of Tecumseh, Neb. "Did you know the answers?"

"Well, I never was more than one lap ahead of the class," said the former teacher.

"Ah'm next," the speaker was A. L. Hall, aged negro who worked on the Pershing farm. The general shook hands heartily.

"Al, where did you get that flour in your hair?" he asked, pulling a wisp of snowy wool.

"General John, we all am getting dazed," said Uncle Al, chuckling as he moved away.

Old John Duckworth

"What are you old John Duckworth worth?" he asked. "God bless you, I never expected to see you alive. I can't believe that you were grown and gave me hardback when I was a little boy," was the greeting to the next man in line.

"Look in my face and see if you know me," said an aged woman.

"Sure, I know Mollie Glover. You married a Roland. Lew Roland. Moved to town, he walked away."

"Are you married?" the general asked two young persons who came up arm in arm.

The young man blushed. So did the young woman. The general laughed. Then the girl spoke up:

"Not yet—but we're going to be."

"Fine. Let me be the first to congratulate you."

An aged man—one leg missing—

hobbled up. "I'm R. M. Brewer," he said.

"Lord bless you," said Pershing. "You rented my father's farm."

"You bet I did."

"And I took it over the next year and farmed it."

"You did so."

"And made more corn than you did, Brewer."

"I won't admit that, general." And they both laughed heartily.

Wears a Gold Star

Then came a little woman with a gold star and black band on her sleeve and clasped his hand. Tears came to her eyes.

"My own boy"—she began. Pershing stooped and kissed her. "Be a little mother, be brave," he said, gently.

She was Mrs. Willis Hamilton, who lives near Mexico. Her son, Joseph, died in the Argonne.

A minute later General Pershing settled the question of his birthplace.

"Meadville claims you, too," said an aged man.

"And rightly so," said General Pershing. "I was born between here and Meadville—at least, so I was told."

Just before the dinner in the old Pershing residence the general strolled into the kitchen. There he spied Aunt Maria, eighty-five years old. Forty years ago she was a cook in the Pershing home. She was back at the old job. Pershing seized her by the shoulders.

"Maria, it's good to see you."

"Yassa, Johnny, and I's glad to see you. You ain't changed a bit—jes took a little age on. And, Johnny boy, you still suah did need age, you rascal."

Where His Stocking Hung

A pretty miss near by was garnishing a salad.

"What a pretty lassie," Pershing said, smiling upon her. "Young lady, I've been all over the world, and I want to say the prettiest girl on the globe are found in Missouri."

"John," was asked, "where did you hang your stocking on Christmas Eve?"

The general walked over to a corner of the parlor and touched the wall with a finger.

"There," he said, "right in this very corner, many a Christmas Eve."

Then he went to the little white cottage of Aunt Susan Hewitt. Jumping from the car, he opened the gate, walked to the door and entered without knocking. Aunt Susan, her best shawl around her shoulders, held out her arms to him, and he embraced her.

"I knew you'd come," she whispered. "I've looked for you all day, Johnny, you dear boy."

Then tears got the better of Aunt Susan.

Engineers Offer
Plan for Reclaiming
Land in Palestine

Work Calls for Temporary
Camps for Jews Who
Will Rush Eastward and
for Future Improvements

An ambitious program for reconstruction work to be done in Palestine was outlined at the second annual conference of the Zionist Society of Engineers and Agriculturists, held at 25 West Thirty-ninth Street, by James Haines, secretary of the organization.

The report by Mr. Haines provides for the establishment of a northeast nursing, construction of highways, railroads and highways, reclamation of swampy lands and their development through irrigation, providing of water supply and sewage disposal system.

Organization of various industries also is provided in the report.

Meeting Is Important

More than 250 engineers are attending the conference, whose deliberations are considered of the utmost importance at this time because of the proximity of the Jewish people to the Zionists, the hundreds of thousands of Jews throughout the world waiting the opportunity to emigrate there and the \$100,000,000 campaign, which the Zionist organization of America will launch January 15 to provide funds to carry on the necessary reconstruction work.

Plans to send an engineering expedition to Palestine to survey the country and plan for the carrying out of reconstruction projects is one of the chief topics under discussion at the conference. The various proposals outlined by the expedition report will be discussed by engineers from all over the country and organizations for the actual reclamation of Palestine put into action.

A summary of the proposals in Mr. Haines' report is as follows:

Building of temporary camps for immediate housing of the immigrants to Palestine, which shall be located in the desert and converted into permanent agricultural colonies.

Water power development, through canals, reservoirs, aqueducts and hydro-electric plants.

Reclamation of the Hullah Valley, including the drainage and clearing of the Hullah swamps of over 5,000 acres, and the erection of reservoirs and aqueducts controlling the upper Jordan system, releasing 3,700 acres for cultivation and development thus drained through irrigation.

Location of a harbor at either Jaffa or Haifa, and developing it by docks and comprehensive harbor improvements, linking up with it a network of railroad lines.

Construction of roads and pavements. Providing water supply through artesian wells and reservoirs, and sewage disposal systems, with the special view of converting sewage into fertilizers.

Organization of various industries, including a tannery, turning out 250 hides daily; a cement mill, with a daily output of 2,000 barrels; shoe, fertilizer, canning and preserving, furniture and clothing factories, foundries and blacksmith shops.

A national shipping project, involving about \$10,000,000, because the shipping problem is considered to be one of the most important factors in future immigration.

Saxon King Was "Dry"

The sale of intoxicating drinks was prohibited in England as early as the reign of the Saxon King Edgar, who closed hundreds of ale houses.

First Cotton Export

The earliest exports of cotton from America were made in 1785, in which year one bag was sent from Charleston to Liverpool, while twelve were sent from Philadelphia and one from New York.

K. of C. Work of
Reconstruction in
Europe Finished

Need Red Blood More Than
Relief, Declares Chairman
Mulligan; Brings Pope's
Blessing for Organization

William J. Mulligan, chairman of the Knights of Columbus committee on war activities, returned to New York last Tuesday after completing the organization's relief work for the A. E. F. The Knights of Columbus activities in Europe are now reduced to providing instruction in languages and athletic and other entertainment for the remnant of the army of occupation and acting as guides to American service men visiting Paris and other cities.

"The people of Europe are not so badly off as many would have Americans believe," said Mr. Mulligan. "While there are distressful conditions in places, one detects symptoms of springing through America's lavish assistance. Europe needs red blood rather than relief, and it wouldn't be unacceptable if gratitude were shown to America for what she has done. But we will take all we have to give, and certainly we should give something. But we should ask for an accounting of everything we give and insist that the statesmen of Europe get down to business, if they want to continue receiving our help. There is too much talk and not enough work in Europe."

Mr. Mulligan said that Pope Benedict, who entrusted to him a Christmas message for the Knights of Columbus, exclaimed "bravo" when he heard of the extensive Knights of Columbus educational program for veterans of the war. "A most valuable contribution to peace," the Pope characterized the plan.

Through Mr. Mulligan Cardinal Mercier extended a Christmas and New Year's greeting to the American nation, thanking them for their cordial hospitality during his sojourn there, and thanking especially the Knights for their present drive for his reconstruction plans in Belgium. While in New York the Cardinal and King Albert were made members of the Knights of Columbus. The Cardinal, says Mr. Mulligan, recently met the King in Brussels and greeted him as "my brother Knight of Columbus."

The Red Cross and the Knights of Columbus, Mr. Mulligan declared, saw to it that Americans in Warsaw had Christmas mail and supplies by establishing jointly an aerial line from Paris to Warsaw. The rail journey over that distance consumes four days, but the air journey is only ten hours, and more certain. Lieutenant J. E. McDonald, a member of Detroit Council K. of C., was the first pilot of the air line, which was established at the request of the American Ambassador in Warsaw.

Four New Yorkers Given
War Decorations by Rumania

Rumanian decorations have been awarded to four New York men for their work with the American Red Cross, according to a cable message just received by the Atlantic Division of the Red Cross from Bucharest. The recipients of the awards are Major Charles E. Spratt, of the Lamb; Major James A. Mills, of 161 West 228th Street; Lieutenant Colonel William Warfield, of 15 Gramercy Park, and Lieutenant Clarence B. Rogers, of 12 West Ninety-fifth Street. All four are still abroad.

Major Spratt has been made a chevalier of the Order of the Star of Rumania. Major Mills and Colonel Warfield have been made officers of the Order of the Star of Rumania. Lieutenant Rogers becomes a chevalier of the Order of the Star of Rumania.

Alcohol Is Being Made from calcium carbide at a rate of about 12,000,000 gallons a year at a Swiss plant.

BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENT BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENT BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENT BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENT BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENT

Every Station on the West Side Subway Lines is an Entrance to A. & S. Private Subway Entrance for a 5c Fare.

ABRAHAM AND STRAUS

BROOKLYN

Store
Opens
9 A. M.
Closes
5:30 P. M.

The Annual January Sale of White

Presents Most Economical Prices on Beautiful Lingerie of High Quality — and in Generous Quantities

FEMININE to a degree are the fascinating under things this year. Dainty with laces and embroideries, lovely in newness and quite irresistible to the world of women who always supply their needs at this great White Sale.

There are hand-made, hand-embroidered garments from the clever needle-women of the Philippines—these have never been more beautifully made than this year.

There are garments of Silk, Crepe de Chine, Habutai and washable Satin in white or flesh, delightfully trimmed

with laces and tuckings. And the American-made Cotton Lingerie is as desirable and as beautiful as any imports one has ever seen.

Here are enormous stocks to choose from—fresh, varied and as reasonably priced as can be found.

Specials!

Nightgowns		Envelope Chemises		Bloomers	
Batiste, flesh or white, lace-trimmed and hand-embroidered	94c	Flesh or white Batiste, lace or embroidered trimmed	94c	Pink Batiste, with dotted or picot-edged ruffles	56c
Cotton Crepe, white or striped with white, blue or orchid	\$1.46	Crepe de Chine, flesh or white, hand-embroidered or lace trimmed	\$2.39	Corset Covers	
Batiste, flesh, white or blue, some are hand-embroidered	\$1.94	Petticoats		White Carbric lace edging and embroidered insertion	
Philippine, hand-made and hand-scalloped	\$2.25	Long White Muslin Petticoats trimmed with embroidery or lace	94c	Drawers	
Cambric in high or V shaped neck, long sleeves	\$1.66	White Sateen, with wide hem-stitched hem, or gathered ruffle	\$1.26	Cambric with tucked and embroidered ruffle	56c
Flannelette high or low necks, short or long sleeves	\$1.46				

American Made
Cotton Lingerie

Nightgowns from... 94c to \$7.78
Envelope Chemises... 94c to \$4.98
Corset Covers... 56c to \$3.98
Drawers... 56c to \$3.98
Long Petticoats... 94c to \$6.98
Short Petticoats... 76c to \$2.98
Bloomers... 56c to \$2.25
Pajamas... \$2.98 to \$3.98

White Cotton
Blouses

Voiles and Cross-bar Dimities, with embroidered and lace-trimmed collars, are in this lot. Some have vestees and round neck effects. There are tailored styles as well as pretty little lingerie styles. Sizes 36 to 46. 79c

Group 2. Organdies, striped dimities and fine voiles are in this lot; also blouses of madras, in tailored styles; all types of collars worn for tailored or semi-tailored wear; embroidery and lace trimmings; 36 to 46. \$1.29

Group 3. Just for this sale are these dainty blouses made of materials that cannot easily be duplicated at all or at any price. Satin striped dimities, novelty voiles, dotted Swisses, all charmingly trimmed with laces, embroideries and original modelling of collar, cuffs, etc. \$1.98

Second floor, East Building.

For Babies to Wear

Infants' Long Dresses of Nainsook, 69c to \$1.69.
Babies' Short Dresses, 6 months to 2 years, 59c to \$1.69.

Babies' Short Skirts, 1 and 2 years, 49c to 72c.
Rompers, seersucker or chambray, 1 to 6 years, 98c to \$1.25.
Children's Dresses, chambray or gingham, 2 to 6 years, \$1.25 to \$1.58.

Bloomer Dresses, 2 to 6 years, \$1.98 to \$2.99.
Dainty White Dresses, 2 to 6 years, \$3.98 to \$5.98.

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Illustrations—

A. White Voile Blouses, collar embroidered and lace-trimmed... \$1.98
B. White cotton, with short sleeves and square cut neck; half sleeves... \$1.29
C. White Voile, tucked front; collar embroidered and lace-trimmed. Sizes 36 to 46... 79c.
D. Pink satin Camisoles, lace-trimmed... 94c.
E. Lingerie Corset Covers, lace and embroidery trimmed... 66c.
F. Pink Cotton Crepe Bloomers, Blue Bird design... 94c.
G. White cotton Petticoats, lace-trimmed flounce... 94c.
H. White Batiste Nightgowns, bodice top of lace and embroidery... \$1.76
J. White batiste Envelope Chemises, lace and embroidery trimmed... 94c.
K. White batiste Nightgowns, lace and embroidery trimmed... 94c.
L. Envelope Chemises, lace-trimmed... \$1.94
M. Envelope Chemises, lace-trimmed... \$1.94
N. White batiste Nightgowns, lace and embroidery trimmed, lace medallion... \$1.94
P. Batiste Nightgowns in white or pink, trimmed with Valenciennes lace... \$1.46
Q. Pink batiste Nightgowns with blue braid stitching... \$1.46
R. White Envelope Chemises, edged with lace, tucked and stitched... \$1.46
S. Pink batiste Nightgowns, trimmed with wide cream colored lace... \$1.94
T. Pink or white batiste Nightgowns, hand embroidered in colors... 94c.
U. "Ringo Belt" Corsets, of white coutil, white embroidery top... \$2.38
V. Nainsook Nightgowns, lace and embroidery trimmed. Sizes 36 to 46... \$1.98
W. Girls' Billie Burkes, pink crepe. Sizes 8 to 16... \$1.98
X. Princess Slips for Girls, white nainsook, lace and embroidery trimmed. Sizes 6 to 14... \$1.49
Y. Knickerbocker Drawers, white cambric, lace trimmed. Sizes 4 to 10... \$1.98

Philippine
Cotton Lingerie

Nightgowns... \$2.98 to \$7.18
Chemises... \$2.98 to \$4.98
Drawers... \$1.98 to \$3.98
Corset Covers... \$2.98 to \$3.98

Underwear
for Girls

Nightgowns, of nainsook, 4 to 16 years, 89c to \$1.98.
Cambric Bloomers, 6 to 16 years, \$1.98.

Crepe Nightgowns, 4 to 16 years, 69c.
Knickerbocker Drawers, 2 to 12 years, 49c to 79c.

Princess Slips, 2 to 6 years, 39c to \$1.25.
Princess Slips, 8 to 16 years, 98c to \$2.25.

Pink Crepe Billie Burkes, 12 to 16 years, \$1.98 to \$2.49.

Special — Children's Cambric Drawers; hemstitched and tucked, 2 to 12 years, 25c.

Smart striped Gingham Dresses, also elastic waist line model in striped percale; sizes 36 to 46, at... \$4.50
Sizes 36 to 46
Coutil Striped

Blue Chambray, with white collar and cuffs; or striped novelty percale, with pique trimmings, at... \$2.98

Striped Gingham Billie Burke house dresses, in blue, green or pink; also a model in pretty plaid percale, with ruffled collar, at... \$3.98

Smart striped Gingham Dresses, also elastic waist line model in striped percale; sizes 36 to 46, at... \$4.50
Sizes 36 to 46
Coutil Striped

Bandeaux and Brassieres

Pink brocaded coutil or pink batiste bandeaux; or elastic bandeaux in a range of styles. 49c to \$1.29
Brassieres trimmed with laces, embroideries, etc. 59c to \$1.98

Corset Values of Importance

A. & S. Corsets, of pink brocaded coutil; boned with black boning; low bust; long hip line; elastic section at top... \$5.98
"Abrast" Corsets, for the average figure; pink brocaded coutil; well boned; elastic band at top; long hip line... \$4.98
Warner's Rust Proof Corsets, of pink brocaded coutil; elastic band at top; low bust; long hip line... \$3.98
Ringo Belt Corset; designed for stout figure; made of strong white coutil; well boned; long hip line; medium low bust; elastic sections in skirt... \$2.98
A. & S. Corsets, of pink coutil; well boned; long hip line; medium low bust; elastic sections in skirt... \$2.49
A. & S. Special Corsets, three models in this group; pink or white coutil; all have low bust and long hip line... \$1.98
A. & S. Corsets, of pink brocaded Batiste; elastic top; very low bust; long hip line... \$1.49

Lingerie of Silk Fabrics

Nightgowns... \$4.98 to \$42.00
Envelope Chemises... \$2.39 to \$37.00
Camisoles... 94c to \$ 9.38
Pajamas... \$8.28 to \$43.00
Petticoats... \$3.98 to \$41.10
Bloomers... \$1.98 to \$12.98